

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

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with Purple Hearts
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**“Ironhorses”
kick up dust**



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information*

Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

FLIGHTLINES

New River's Back Gate Opened

The New River back gate opened on Monday for inbound DoD and government vehicle traffic.

Inbound and outbound back gate hours will be weekdays from 0530-1800. The gate will remain closed during weekends and holidays.

Non DoD traffic and visitors will be required to access the installation via the main gate.

For more information, call 449-6111.

Bag Break-to-Go!

Patrons who come into the New River Mess Hall to pick up a Bag Break-to-Go after conducting physical training are not authorized to pick up any additional food items from the mess deck.

Fruit and yogurt will be available in the Bag Break-to-Go from now on, and patrons in PT gear are required to leave the facility through the closest exit. The only patrons authorized to be on the mess deck are those in proper military or civilian attire.

If you have any questions contact the Mess Hall SNCOIC at 449-6710.

Children's Revue

The Sarah Graham Kenan Auditorium of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, invites military families to the 2003 Red, White and Blue Children's Revue on July 4. The times are 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

The show lasts approximately one hour and features

performances by summer arts students, area special guests and costumed characters.

Also included are visual arts, prizes and surprises from area merchants and a closing ice cream social for the little guys and gals. It is free to everyone. We want our military to be special guests as our thanks to them on our nation's special day.

For more information contact Ingrid Wright at 254-3235 or via e-mail at occy-cat@aol.com.

Youth Karate Summer Camp

A Summer Karate Camp for children ages 5 through 13 will be held throughout the months of June and July at building AS-260. The cost to register is \$35, but space is limited.

For more information or to register your child, please call 449-6003.

Summer Reading Program

Reading program begins June 19 at the Main Library in Jacksonville from 10 to 10:45 a.m. for preschool and kindergarten.

For first and second grades from 11 a.m. to noon. For fifth and sixth grades from 2 to 3:15 p.m.

For more information call 455-7350 ext. 231.

Rotoball Basketball Camp

The third annual Rotoball Basketball Camp will be held July 21 - 25 at the Fitness Center.

This camp teaches basic and advanced basketball skills, and is open to family members ages 7 through 15. Registration will be held from till July 2. Space is limited, so register today.

For more information, call 449-6714.

Please curb your dogs

People who walk their dogs around the Air Station running trail have been failing to pick up pooch droppings, creating a slippery situation for runners.

Pet owners are asked to clean-up after their dogs and help keep the Air Station looking and smelling a little bit better.

Earn a promotion

Recruiting Stations Louisville, Ky., and Richmond, Va., are looking for motivated Marines who want to earn promotion points toward their composite score.

While on Permissive Temporary Assigned Duty the Marine will be assisting recruiters in their recruiting efforts and enjoy the opportunity to be near home for up to 30 days. RS Louisville is looking for Marines from Kentucky, southern Indiana and the greater Cincinnati, Oh., area.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Maj. Leon Jordan, at (502) 582-6612/6610 or via email at: jordanl@4mcd.usmc.mil.

Recruiting Station Richmond is looking for Marines to assist in the following cities in Virginia: Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond, Petersburg, Charlottesville, Lynchburg,

Roanoke, and Danville.

Contact Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Humphrey or Staff Sgt. Travis Faison at (800) 436-6577.

Privates and privates first class can get promoted to the next rank, while lance corporals and corporals can earn up to 100 points toward promotion. Openings are available now.

Reminders From PMO

The New River's Provost Marshal's Office would like to remind all personnel not to park on the grass aboard the Station. Also, all are reminded not to run or jog on Curtis Street, between the light at the PX and Highway 17.

Also, several bicycles and scooters have been turned in to the lost and found at the Station Provost Marshal's Office. If you are missing your bicycle or scooter, call 449-5734.

On the Cover

NEAR ARTA, Djibouti -- A soldier with Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Regiment, 10th Mountain Division fast ropes out of a CH-53E helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 June 7. The company also participated in Military Operations in Urban Terrain training in order to better support Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in its mission to defeat transnational terrorism in east Africa.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

'Thunder Eagles' take flight under new command

Cpl. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 received a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony held in front of the squadron's hangar June 5.

Lieutenant Col. John C. Kennedy, relinquished command of the "Thunder Eagles" to Lt. Col. Roy A. Osborn, who was formerly the commanding officer of the Headquarters Squadron of Marine Aircraft Group-29.

Kennedy took command of the squadron April 27, 2001 after reporting in as the executive officer in February.

After being with the squadron for 25 months Kennedy will spend the next year attending the National War College in Washington, D.C.

"It is hard for me to say good-bye to him," said Sgt. Maj. Michael McAvoy, HMM-263 sergeant major. "He cared deeply about his Marines. We have approximately 540 Marines in the squadron and he knew everyone of them by face and name. He even knew who was married and the names of their wives."

Kennedy said he would remember the Marines and their performance.

"They would come to work in the morning with a smile on their face and get the job done then come back the next day just to do it again," Kennedy said. "He (Osborn) just has to sit back and let the Marines do their thing and enjoy it because it goes by too fast."

Under Kennedy's command, the squadron participated in two Combined Arms Exercises at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., a Weapons Tactics Instructors course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and a nine-month deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

"All Lieutenant Colonel Osborn has to do is take care of the Marines and they will do anything for him," said McAvoy. "This is my first time working with him but the Marines and I are looking forward to serving under him."

According to Brig. Gen. James F. Flock, assistant wing commander 2nd Marine

Aircraft Wing, Osborn is an insightful leader always looking down the road.

Osborn, a native of Groveton, Texas, is no stranger to New River. After serving as the Headquarters Marine Corps Aviation V-22 Plans Officer, working in Aviation Plans, Programs and Budgets branch at the Pentagon he was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group-29.

Osborn then deployed in January as part of the Air Combat Element of Camp Lejeune's 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



Cpl. Wayne Campbell

Sergeant Maj. Michael McAvoy passes the squadron colors from Lt. Col. John C. Kennedy to Lt. Col. Roy A. Osborn, representing the passing of command during the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 change of command ceremony, June 5.

Volunteers needed for museum

The Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas is seeking volunteers to participate in a fundraiser in conjunction with Next Media.

They are seeking Marines and Sailors who have returned home from Operation Enduring Freedom to give a testimony of their experiences in the gulf.

They are also looking for spouses and family members of those deployed and returning. The testimonies will be played during the fundraiser for the "Tribute Trees" that will be placed along Highway 24.

If you are interested in participating please contact Tonya Nagle at 937-0033 or e-mail mcmuseum@earthlink.net. They will be conducting interviews June 16-20.

Organization welcomes wounded Marines

Sgt. Chet Decker
contributor

NORFOLK, Va. -- Task Force Tarawa Marines who have been awarded the Purple Heart are being welcomed with open arms into the Military Order of the Purple Heart, an association of wounded veterans that help communities and each other.

The national organization is waiving membership fees for Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans from all services who have received the nation's oldest military medal. The MOPH organization assists communities throughout the country through charitable work.

Additionally, members receive assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs claims and in navigating the veteran health care system.

"It's a unique brotherhood," said retired Marine Lt. Col. Terry Moore, a two-time recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds in Vietnam. "A lot of us

who were wounded in Vietnam felt kind of guilty and for a long time never wore the Purple Heart. We had the tendency to think, 'hey, I got stupid enough to get wounded.'"

Much like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the MOPH has local meetings as well as national conventions. It's the only congressionally chartered veteran's organization for combat wounded veterans.

"We talk about related situations that involve the government and how we can support the government," said Moore, of the Beirut Memorial Chapter 642, MOPH in Jacksonville. "There are many programs where we take care of our veterans. We have programs for spouses, scholarship programs and numerous civic affairs events. We go to schools and talk about the American flag, leadership and patriotism."

Moore, who received a battlefield commission in Vietnam as a gunnery sergeant, sustained a gunshot wound

and survived being blown out of a bunker during a rocket attack. He retired in 1987 and still carries shrapnel in his legs and hands.

"Many of us have little pieces in muscle areas that they leave in there. Some pieces work themselves out," said Moore. "A lot of the guys get together and joke about it."

George Washington designed and created the original Purple Heart and first awarded it in 1783 to three veterans of the Revolutionary War - all sergeants. It was first called the Badge of Military Merit and recipients didn't have to be wounded to receive it. The Purple Heart emerged in the 1930s, drawing heavily from Washington's Badge of Military Merit and requiring its recipients to have been combat wounded. The Department of the Navy adopted it in 1941.

For more information about MOPH call (703) 642-5360 or access their Web site at www.purpleheart.org.



Pfc. Samuel B. Valliere

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, pins a Purple Heart on Gunnery Sgt. Michael E. Heath at Camp Pendleton, May 12.

Response to uniform article

Gunnery Sgt. S. G. Leonard
NAMTRAMAR Unit



The article on proper civilian attire written in the June 4 issue of The RotoVue was well needed and has been a long time coming. However, there are a few

often overlooked concerns that need to be addressed about civilian clothes and uniform regulations in general.

Paragraph 1005.7.a of Marine Corps Order P1020.34F (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations), addresses headgear when worn by Marines. It states, when wearing civilian headgear, it will be removed when indoors. There is an exception for women who may wear headgear in accordance with established social norms. The wearing of clothing articles not specifically designed to be normally worn as headgear, such as bandannas or "doo rags" are prohibited.

To me, this is pretty clear. Marines will remove headgear wherever and whenever they enter a building to include private business, restaurants, food vendors and department or convenience stores. In addition, it states that Marines do not wear bandannas and "doo rags" as headgear.

While on the subject of headgear, let's address wearing the cover while in a vehicle. Also stated in MCO P1020.34F paragraph 3004.1.d, headgear will be worn in government vehicles and in privately owned vehicles on base, except when doing so would present a hazard to safe driving. Passengers do not operate the vehicle

and should always have the appropriate cover on.

Female Marine uniform and personal appearance regulations are often overlooked because few leaders take the time to educate themselves on the Orders.

One of the more frequent violations of the policies is the proper length of the fingernails. Paragraph 1004.5.c.5 clarifies that nail length will be no longer than 1/4 inch from the tip of the finger. Two-inch acrylic, French manicured nails in uniform are not appropriate.

Additionally, female Marine hair regulations are frequently violated, especially while in physical training gear. According to paragraph 1004.5.c.1, hair can be worn down while in regular PT gear. However, if the PT session is being conducted in "boots and utes", the hair is to be worn in the same manner as if you were in a full uniform.

During physical training periods in which physical training clothing is worn, hair will be allowed to fall naturally, without being fastened or pinned. This does not apply when conducting physical training in the utility uniform.

In the new technology age it seems that everyone has a cellular phone or pager. Cell phones and pagers are not authorized while in uniform unless it is required in the performance of your duties, such as the squadron duty officer. If there are any questions, refer to the order.

Except for the authorization contained in paragraph 7000, articles such as cell phones, pagers, etc. are

not authorized for wear on a regulation uniform, paragraph 1004.2.

Let's never forget that we're the world's finest and should be easily identified as such by our appearance in and out of uniform. The title doesn't come off on the weekends or when we change from a uniform to civilian attire. Uphold the standards and traditions that distinguish us and be proud in doing so. Ooh rah!

Did you know?

*The "Warriors" of Marine
Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167
were activated March 15, 1968 at
Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic
of Vietnam, as Marine Light Helicopter
Squadron-167.*

Sea Gull Recreation, not just for the birds

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Deployments are a large part of military life, and when servicemembers return leisure activities can help them get back to their regular routines.

At Sea Gull, individuals can find a variety of relaxing and athletic activities that can help them unwind. They have an 18-hole miniature golf course, bumper cars and golf driving ranges, which are covered or uncovered for the customers' convenience. Driving ranges have separated sections divided by wood paneling for safety.

Eight baseball and softball batting cages are also available for practice or entertainment. They, too, are separated for safety. Pitching speeds vary from slow softball pitches to fast and little league 40 mph to major league 90 mph pitches.

For those interested in learning how to play golf, Sea Gull offers lessons. The owner, Charles Bartlett, who is a Professional Golf Association pro, gives them. If customers are looking into investing in their own golf clubs, Charles can make custom clubs, and he also does repairs.

According to Alice L. Bartlett, this business was opened in February 1992 with the sole purpose of having year-round golf, but now it's become a family establishment for everyone to enjoy. In addition, military children can play miniature golf at no cost on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

"This is an awesome facility with good prices," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lawrence A. Braxton, the maintenance material control officer for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29. "It's close, and I don't have to worry about my kids getting hit with golf balls or hitting other people with golf balls."

Braxton has been a patron of Sea Gulls' for almost two years and after recently returning from

Operation Iraqi Freedom, this "Wolverine" still goes there with his children to enjoy driving the balls down range. He also believes it's a good way to relax and get away from the stresses at work.

"I love this place," said Gunnery Sgt. Dana Wright, flightline staff noncommissioned officer for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261. "They offer more golf balls in their bushel than anybody else. As a matter of fact, I don't think anyone else offers a bushel."

According to Eddie D. Bogardus, a pro golfer who spends a great deal of his time at Sea Gull, a bushel of golf balls is equal to seven large baskets, but for a lesser price, and any golf lover could go through a bushel in a couple of hours.

While golfers come for the driving ranges, families come for the miniature golf. They can take pleasure in looking at the scenery and the gold fish while they putt their way through the course, added Bogardus.

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas M. Carlo, assistant S-4 operations chief for Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit, enjoys taking his kids to the miniature golf course and the batting shack. Carlo plays for New River's varsity softball team and practices batting with a few of his teammates at least three times a week.

"I like that it's wide open, and when you hit the ball, you can see where the ball goes," said Carlo. Batting cages are uncovered for the benefit of the batter. They have the opportunity to judge their distance, explained Alice.

"I also like the family atmosphere. I've known Alice for a long time, and she treats me as if I were her son," said Carlo.

Family, fun and relaxation can make all the difference to a Marine returning from deployment, why not make their transition an easy one.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Gunnery Sgt. Dana Wright, flightline SNCOIC for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261, drives a few golf balls down range, Saturday.

Awards & Promotions

Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron

Promotions

Sgt. J. R. Escobar
Sgt. S. L. Kneppel
Cpl. E. C. Alderette
Cpl. K. S. Brenneman
Cpl. J. W. Fleming III
Cpl. O. J. Jennings
Cpl. R. D. Oconnor
Cpl. E. F. Torres
Lance Cpl. B. L. Archer
Lance Cpl. R. J. Settles
Pfc. J. C. Hickey

Good Conduct Medal

Master Sgt. A. E. Ashford
Master Sgt. T. J. Shearer
Staff Sgt. B.S. Brassfield
Staff Sgt. W. F. May Jr.
Cpl. L. B. Adams
Cpl. A. P. Pupillo Jr.
Cpl. J. D. Wunder
Lance Cpl. C. A. Coward Jr.
Lance Cpl. C. B. Mills

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26

Promotions

Staff Sgt. D. H. Ketzenberg

Sgt. A. J. Russell
Sgt. J. A. Carmichael
Sgt. G. B. Grant
Sgt. J. Kowalski
Cpl. C. A. Griego
Cpl. M. W. Byrd
Cpl. J. S. Pottmeyer
Cpl. C. A. Kearney
Cpl. A. Morales
Cpl. J. P. Hughes
Lance Cpl. J. J. Lassiter
Lance Cpl. J. M. White

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. A. A. Delgado
Staff Sgt. R. L. Hooks
Cpl. N. Johnson

Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. K. M. Bekes
Lance Cpl. C. Barraza
Lance Cpl. J. M. Kovach
Lance Cpl. J. P. Bates
Lance Cpl. L. M. Hodges
Lance Cpl. C. J. Kearney
Lance Cpl. J. W. German

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Sgt. W. B. Allen

There's a new EOA in town

Staff Sgt. Mario R. Morales equal opportunity advisor

Staff Sergeant Mario R. Morales is the new Equal Opportunity Advisor for MCAS New River.

The primary mission of the Station EOA is to provide instruction, assistance and advice on all EO matters.

All Marines are expected to exercise good leadership by promoting harmonious interactions with individuals, regardless of age, race,

color, religion, gender or national origin.

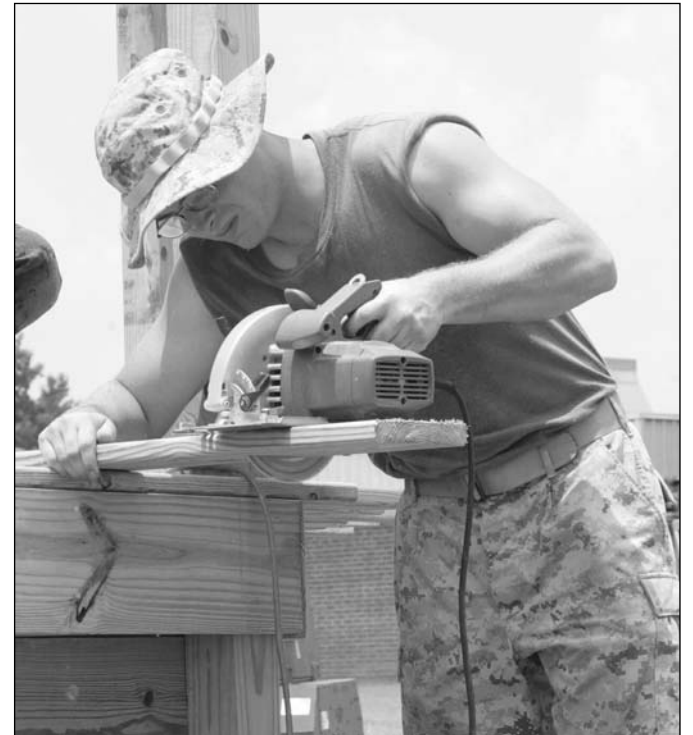
This will exemplify fair treatment for all Marines and identify the unfair practices to higher authority through the chain of command.

Discrimination undermines morale, reduces combat readiness and prevents maximum utilization and development of the Marine Corps most valuable asset, people.

Staff Sgt. Morales can be contacted by phone at 449-5474 or via e-mail at moralesmr@newriver.usmc.mil.

New Gazebo

Lance Cpl. James Blewitt, a combat engineer from Marine Wing Support Squadron-471, was one of many Marines who helped build the flooring for the new gazebo being constructed at the Station Staff Noncommissioned Officer's club. Work on the gazebo began June 9 and is scheduled for completion by the Fourth of July weekend. The gazebo is located behind the club with a view of the New River.



Cpl. Wayne Campbell

Station commander bids farewell

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

"I don't know why it seems so hard, but it really hurts to wrap things up and say good bye," said the man who's commanded MCAS New River for the last three years.

Colonel Dennis T. Bartels took command of the Station on June 23, 2000, and "put a stake in the ground that says New River". Since then he has endeavored to reclaim the stature of the Station as a different and distinct command which happens to be located in Onslow County near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, while improving the functions required to ensure the smooth and safe operation of a busy air station.

"We are New River and we need to take pride in that fact," said Bartels, a St. Louis, Mo., native. "There's nobody that's closer to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. We do a lot with them through open hospitality and extended hand, and because we're the closest we offer them more training opportunities."

An important aspect in his quest to build pride in the Station has been his hope to create efficiency.

"We're all here to meet the needs and the requirements of the Marine Corps," said the 6'2" commander. "We all have to be prepared to step up and accept the challenges, take that responsibility, and make it work the very best we can."

Improving the quality of life aboard the Station has been one of Bartels' goals and he believes it's been accomplished with the help of everyone here.

"People want to come here," he said. "The people who are here are glad that they're here because it is a very hospitable environment. The people who we serve know who we are and they know how to get to us if they got any questions, concerns or compliments. It's a very personable business that we're in here."

A graduate of the Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo., Bartels joined the Marine Corps on June 6, 1975. He was designated a naval aviator in 1977.

After serving at MCAS Tustin, Calif.; MCAS Futema, Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and Headquarters Marine Corps, Bartels got to New River in June of 1992 and served as the executive officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263, completing a deployment to the Persian Gulf and Somalia. In January of 1994, Bartels took command of the "Thunder Eagles" and completed a second deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Bosnia.

In July of 1996 Bartels left New River and attended the National Defense University at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., earning a master's degree in national strategies and security. After completion of school, he was assigned to the U.S. Space Command, where he served as mission director for space operations and activities at the U.S. Space and North American Aerospace Defense Command Center.

In August of 1999 he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps Aviation as head of aviation support and manpower.

Bartels is scheduled to relinquish command of New River to Col. Stephen L. Forand, at a ceremony held tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the flightline of the Station Operations building.

"I'm going to miss the people, that's for sure," said the blue-eyed colonel. "I think we've got a lot of great people throughout the installation. They're all very keenly aware that the service they provide is very well received."

According to Bartels, he is proud and confident of leaving a staff that has grown closer and works as a team toward rebuilding the unique nature of the Station.

"All the daily challenges forced me to utilize every bit of experience that I've gained throughout my time in the Corps to keep everybody moving in the same direction," he said. "It's been a very rewarding and fulfilling tour of duty."

Bartels and Forand had never met prior to a few months ago when the incoming commanding officer visited the Station as a guest of Bartels.

"I think he's going to be a good commander," he said. "He's very excited

about getting this opportunity. That's part of the battle on the transition, you've got to be eager and excited about getting here and being the head of the Air Station."

Those wishing to attend the ceremony can follow these directions: From the Station's main gate take Curtis Rd. and follow signs posted by the military police to the parking lot at Station Operations and ceremony area. The uniform for military personnel is the uniform of the day. Casual attire is recommended for civilian guests.



Cpl. Josh P. Vierela

Colonel Dennis T. Bartels, MCAS New River commanding officer, is scheduled to relinquish command of his post to Col. Stephen L. Forand, at a ceremony held tomorrow at the flightline of the Station Operations building.



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Cody Bloser, student of Big Spring Middle School, Lower Mifflin, Pa., receives a haircut from barber Heuston Hall in the Marine Aircraft Group-29 barber shop during a visit here Monday. Bloser, along with other students from his school sent more than 14,000 items, including personal hygiene products, to Iraq in support of U.S. troops. More than 3,000 of those products were courtesy of Bloser himself.

Gung-Ho student visits New River

Staff Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin
media chief

One young student from a middle school in Pennsylvania spent hours of his time gathering more than 3,000 items to send to servicemembers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. And, the Marines at MCAS New River want to say thanks.

Cody Bloser, 13, a seventh-grader from Lower Mifflin, Pa., and other students from Big Spring Middle School gathered a total of 14,500 personal items, books, magazines and snack foods. They sent all of these items to deployed servicemembers, showing their support for the troops. Bloser attributed his motivation to a couple of reasons.

"I knew a lot of people who were overseas," Bloser said, "and I just wanted to say thanks for what they were doing."

Bloser is a family friend of Gunnery Sgt. John Keiter, Quality Assurance, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167. When Keiter found out what the young man had done, he arranged to get the young patriot a tour of his squadron.

"I've known Cody's mom, Sandra, for years. They were planning on visiting this summer and she sent me a newspaper clipping about what Cody had done. I took it up to my commanding officer, showed it to him and asked if there was something we might do to say thanks for what he did," Keiter stated. "He gave a lot of himself without asking for anything in return."

Though no Marines from his squadron benefited from Bloser's efforts, Lt. Col. Jim Grace, commanding officer, HML/A-167, thought that the young man deserved some thanks.

"This is all about Cody's effort's in gathering all those sundry items for soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. He gave of himself unselfishly when he gathered those things," Grace said. "He had no idea that he would get anything in return."

What Bloser got in return was a first-hand look at Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167. He was given a brief about the squadron by the commanding officer, toured the area and got to sit in a UH-1N "Huey" and an AH-1W "Super Cobra." Next, he was given a haircut at one of the barber-shops on Station. And finally, he got to experience

the Super Cobra flight simulator.

"That was pretty cool, the simulator was the best part of the day," Bloser stated. "I had no idea any of this was going to happen."

Bloser gave of himself in the same way thousands of other people did to support our troops overseas. Literally hundreds of thousands of pounds of goods were donated all across the nation to support the war effort in Iraq. These grassroots efforts may seem minor to some, but to the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who receive the care packages sent, it means a great deal. And while the Marines of HML/A-167 did not deploy themselves, they were proud to be able to thank someone on behalf of their brothers-in-arms.

"The Marines in the squadron know what an unselfish thing it was for Cody to do and they just wanted to let him know it was appreciated," said Keiter.

It would be impossible to individually thank everyone who gave, like Cody did, to support our servicemen and women. But, the Marines of HML/A-167 chose Cody as the representative citizen to receive their thank you.

'Patriots'... Let's Ride!

Lieutenant Col. Ludovic M. Baudoin d'Ajoux, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 commanding officer, leads a group of "Patriots" on a motorcycle ride June 6. While preparing for the bike riding season, the Marines in the squadron are promoting motorcycle safety by combining formal classroom instruction, discussing experiences and hands-on training. Ductus Exemplo... Leadership by example... will save Marines' lives.



Sgt. Juan Vara

Tough Terrain



Sgt. Juan Vara

Corporal Christopher D. Moore, a criminal investigator with New River's Criminal Investigation Division, Provost Marshal's Office, pedals his way through Camp Lejeune's 25K Extreme Mountain Bike Challenge, June 7. Moore and fellow team members Maj. Bryan K. Wood, Master Sgt. John J. Thorn, Roger Pryor and Capt. Rob L. James brought home the silver medal in the men's team category.

Cruise with MALS-26

Warriors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 pose for a group photo last month, while at sea with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 serving as part of the Air Combat Element of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The 26th MEU is still deployed as a force in readiness.



courtesy photo



Sgt. Arthur Stone

Lieutenant Gen. Michael A. Hough, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, talks to Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 after being briefed on the capabilities of Relevant Information for Leaders, a leadership tool pioneered by the squadron, May 21.

MALS-26 pioneers leadership program for Corps

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 became the first unit in the Marine Corps to implement a new leadership system introduced by the Aviation Logistics Support branch of Headquarters Marine Corps.

Earlier this year, the "Patriots" started using Relevant Information for Leaders (RIFLe), as a tool to maximize the aircraft readiness of the squadrons within Marine Aircraft Group-26.

"MALS-26 volunteered to be the prototype for RIFLe because we're always looking for better ways to fine tune processes to increase readiness," said Lt. Col. Ludovic M. Baudoin d'Ajoux, MALS-26 commanding officer. "I saw a lot of good in this program. It has the attention of the Deputy Commandant for Aviation, it currently has funds to sustain it and once understood is eagerly accepted."

Based on the Theory of Constraints (TOC), RIFLe allows the unit to identify and solve problems from within. It focuses on what is really important and relevant to the task, minimizing confusion and chaos.

Identifying the system's constraints is the first step in applying TOC. The second step is to decide how to exploit the system's constraints. Next, subordinate everything to the decision taken in step two, elevate the system's constraints, and return to step one once the constraint is broken.

"We are bringing back the feeling of accomplishment of small unit leadership to a large and complex logistics organization," said Maj. Carmine J. Borrelli, MALS-26 executive officer.

During September of last year, Borrelli, who had prior experience with RIFLe while at HQMC, coordinated a trip to introduce the system to Maj. Gerald M. Foreman, MALS-26 aircraft maintenance officer, Capt. Jeffrey M. Bolduc, MALS-26 assistant aviation supply

officer, and Capt. Martin V. Starta, MALS-26 assistant aircraft maintenance officer. Personnel from the Aviation Logistics Support branch of HQMC trained them at the Pentagon, and upon return, Bolduc and Starta were assigned to be co-coordinators of the system within the squadron.

Bolduc and Starta are coordinating the training for the entire squadron. Presently, more than 80 percent of the squadron has been trained and the squadron's focus on readiness has improved significantly.

Within one month of implementing the system, the squadron had tangible improvements. The number of Due In For Maintenance (DIFM) items was reduced from 129 to 26; the average time from when a squadron within MAG-26 orders and receives a part was reduced from 108 to 46 minutes; and the average repair time for Critical Repairable items went from nine days to one.

Sergeant Andrew K. Broome, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Aeronautical Material Screening Unit of the squadron, said he didn't think implementing RIFLe would do anything for the unit.

"Nobody likes change," he said. "With RIFLe the Marines in the squadron had to change their maintenance practices ... but now more 'birds' are staying off the ground."

Broome wasn't the only Marine skeptical about the system.

"At first I was the most doubtful guy in the class," said Gunnery Sgt. Kurt P. Barto, NCOIC of the Production Control division of MALS-26. "I didn't have the concept in my mind, I thought it was just a 'fix-all'."

Barto said his mindset changed within the first few hours into RIFLe training.

"One of the best things of the program is ownership," said Barto. "Corporals and lance corporals

make it work and if it's not working they know why, instead of the 'gunny' or the staff sergeant coming in to point it out."

According to Bolduc, with the system in place, a Marine is assigned a minimum goal and a satisfactory goal. When the minimum goal is not exceeded the Marine has the opportunity to fix the problem without the involvement from senior Marines.

"With RIFLe I have a better understanding of the cause and effect of what it takes to influence aircraft readiness," said Lance Cpl. Robert J. Maratta, aviation supply clerk at the Repairable Control Branch of the Repairable Management Division of MALS-26. "Before a corporal or above had more control, now I learn more as I do my job and have more control and responsibility. If I have trouble not making my goals, I am given the opportunity to find solutions. If cannot resolve the problem I can go to my corporal to give me pointers."

"Is not until the third consecutive time a Marine fails to meet his minimum goal when the superior will get involved to ensure the problem is addressed," said Bolduc.

"RIFLe allows you to focus more on your job," said Lance Cpl. Rafael A. Morros, aviation supply clerk in the squadron. "If there's a problem we know exactly where to go, everybody has their own responsibilities."

The Marines in the squadron have taken a proactive attitude. Leaders from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Aviation Logistics Department, and MAG-26 have been trained on RIFLe and fully support the system.

Baudoin d'Ajoux said Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, would like to see the success created by implementing RIFLe in MALS-26 duplicated throughout other MALS in the 2nd MAW.